

**SECRET**

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Tuesday - 21 December 1971

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3. (Secret - GLC) Met with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, and briefed him in detail on the military situation in Laos. Woodruff said that on the strength of Mr. Maury's briefing last Tuesday he advised Senators Ellender and Milton Young prior to their departure from Washington that the situation was very bad and could deteriorate completely in a matter of weeks.

25X1 Woodruff said he had also briefed Chairman Ellender on the [redacted] case. The Chairman expressed interest and compassion for [redacted] and asked Woodruff about his physical and mental condition. I have given Woodruff a rundown on this so that he can report back when the Chairman returns from his trip.

4. (Secret - GLC) Met with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, and briefed him in detail on the military situation in Laos and indicated that we were anxious for Chairman Stennis to be fully informed. Braswell said he had briefed the Chairman prior to his departure to Mississippi and would be talking with him again shortly and would bring him up-to-date at that time.

I made arrangements with Braswell for him to meet with Colonel 25X1 White, Mr. Colby, Mr. Maury and myself for lunch tomorrow.



Acting Legislative Counsel

cc:

ER

O/DDCI

Mr. Colby; [redacted]

Mr. Houston, Mr. Thuermer

DDI DDS DDS&T

EA/DDP OPPB

Item 3 D/ Pers

Item 5 - Chief, WH

Item 2 - OP

**SECRET**

**COMMUNIST THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES  
THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN  
TESTIMONY OF ROMAN GONZALEZ-PARDO**

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**HEARINGS**  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY  
ACT AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
NINETY-SECOND CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION

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**PART 24**

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SEPTEMBER 27, 1971

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(II)

## COMMUNIST THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN

### TESTIMONY OF ROMAN GONZALEZ-PARDO

SEPTEMBER 27, 1971

U.S. SENATE,  
SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT  
AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS  
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
*Miami, Fla.*

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call at 2:35 p.m. in room 1510, Federal Building, Miami, Fla., Senator Edward Gurney presiding.

Also present: J. G. Sourwine, chief counsel; and Alfonso L. Tarabochia, chief investigator.

Senator GURNEY. This hearing of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, will come to order.

For the benefit of those people present, the gentleman on my right is Mr. Sourwine, who is a staff member, chief staff member on our subcommittee. To the right is the witness, Senor Gonzalez-Pardo, lately of Cuba, and at the end of the table is a staff member, Mr. Al Tarabochia, who will be the interpreter today.

If you will stand up, Mr. Tarabochia.

(Thereupon, Mr. Alfonso Tarabochia was duly sworn as interpreter.)

Roman Gonzalez-Pardo, being first duly sworn, was examined and testified upon his oath through the interpreter.

Senator GURNEY. Will the witness please state his full name?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Roman Gonzalez-Pardo.

Senator GURNEY. And your address?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. 290 Northwest 72d Avenue.

Senator GURNEY. Present employment?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. At this time I haven't begun to work.

Senator GURNEY. When and where were you born?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I was born in Sancti Spiritus, Province of Las Villas, Cuba.

Senator GURNEY. And when did you come to the United States?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. At the end of the month of June.

Senator GURNEY. Is that as a result of a defection from Cuba to the United States?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Exactly a month after our escape which took place via Mexico.

Senator GURNEY. Would you state for the subcommittee your education?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, sir, I can.

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Senator GURNEY. Would you please state it?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Specifically what?

Senator GURNEY. Just very briefly your education, public school, university.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I studied high school in Cuba and began to study for a career in medicine and intern duty at the military hospital in Havana.

Senator GURNEY. Did you attend the Cuban Naval Academy in Mariel?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No, sir.

Senator GURNEY. When did you leave medical school, and why?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. When the fight against Batista was intensified.

Senator GURNEY. Did you join the Castro party as part of his movement?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. After the unification of all the movements, after which Castro took general leadership.

Senator GURNEY. Was that during this period in the mountains in Cuba?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, sir.

Senator GURNEY. In what year?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. 1957.

Senator GURNEY. What was your rank in Castro's revolutionary army?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I was captain of Company H.

Senator GURNEY. Would you just state very briefly your part in the Cuban revolution under Castro?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. There were many, many facets I have to say, but specifically, having been the leader of the student movement in my province, I was in charge of the organization of the revolutionary element after the arrival of Camilo Cienfuegos and Che Guevara in the Province of Las Villas.

Senator GURNEY. Were you ever a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No.

Senator GURNEY. Were you a Communist sympathizer?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No, sir.

Senator GURNEY. In 1960, were you appointed as Coordinator of Maritime Fishing Operations?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. In the Province of Pinar del Río, not specifically of the fishing operations, but of all the harbors of the Province of Pinar del Río, and under this assignment I also had that of the loading of sugar and the rest of the commerce or traffic, commercial traffic to the United States.

Senator GURNEY. But later, a little later, you were assigned as coordinator of the fishing activities; is that correct?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, of all the activities.

Senator GURNEY. And when and where was this?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. During the year of 1961. Castro would elaborate and send to me plans having to do with fishing, in which he had a specific interest in being under his personal direction.

Senator GURNEY. Where were you located at that time? Where were your headquarters?

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Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. In different locations, Cayo Largo, in Batabanó, Girón, Cárdenas, Mariel, and Havana where everything was centralized.

Senator GURNEY. And at this time—was this in 1962?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Progressively from 1961, 1962, and 1963. It was a progressive operation.

Senator GURNEY. What was your final title and office in the Castro government?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Director of the Special Plans for Fishing and Personal Delegate of Castro in the Department of Fishing that had been established within the Institute of Agrarian Reform in Cuba.

Senator GURNEY. This was under the direct personal supervision of Fidel Castro; is that correct?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. This direction did not involve any particular organization but was located in the personal offices of Fidel Castro.

Senator GURNEY. How long did you hold this office, until what year?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Until the end of 1965.

Senator GURNEY. What happened then?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I was arrested in 1966.

Senator GURNEY. Why?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. For having been involved in a conspiracy against Fidel Castro's life.

Senator GURNEY. Would you amplify that conspiracy, tell us what that was about?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The specific facts are well known because among those involved, there was a major who was very well known in the university student circles, by the name of Rolando Cubela, who had been the Chief of the Second Front of Escambray.

Senator GURNEY. Were you involved in this plot?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes.

Senator GURNEY. Can you describe in what fashion?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The attempted assassination had been planned by us quite sometime ahead, I mean, ahead of time. But I had differences of opinion with Cubela about the place that had been chosen to carry it out because the intentions of Cubela were to do it during one of the baseball practice games that Castro used to play early in the morning.

I preferred to do it during one of the frequent underwater fishing expeditions that Castro would go to.

Senator GURNEY. Is your testimony then that you withdrew from the attempt before it was made?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Cubela decided to do it on his own but I put—prepared a motorboat so they could escape from the country after the fact.

Senator GURNEY. What happened after you were arrested? Did they put you in jail, and if so, how long?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I spent 60 days incommunicado in the Department of Security of State.

Senator GURNEY. And then what happened after that?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I was sentenced to 3 years, and I was sent to the concentration camp of Camagüey.

Senator GURNEY. How long were you there?

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Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Fifteen months.

Senator GURNEY. And then what did you do after that?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. They let me out on parole.

Senator GURNEY. How did they let you off so easily if you were engaged in a plot to assassinate Castro?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Because Cubela during the interrogation exonerated me.

Senator GURNEY. What happened to him?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. His sentence was commuted from that of death to 30 years in prison.

Senator GURNEY. What happened to the others involved in the plot? How many were involved?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. There were five. The other four were sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment.

Senator GURNEY. Who were they, their names?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Gallareta, another major who had fought with Cubela, and two more whose names I don't remember right now. The other major's name is Güfn.

Senator GURNEY. When were you released from prison now?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. 1967.

Senator GURNEY. And what did you do then upon release?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. While I was still in jail I advised my wife to start proceedings to leave the country with our daughters.

Senator GURNEY. Did they leave, and where did they go?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. When I got out of the concentration camp, I had to make believe that I had been separated from her, estranged from her, because they authorized her departure but not the departure of the girls, and then I went fishing as a simple fisherman in the Fishing Cooperative of Cortez in the Province of Pinar Del Río.

Senator GURNEY. But your family did get away from Cuba?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, they finally managed to get out, and they have been in Spain for 19 months now.

Senator GURNEY. Do you plan to bring them to the United States?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. As soon as possible because my youngest one is very ill.

Senator GURNEY. Tell us how you escaped from Cuba, when and in what manner.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. It was a plan very well prepared because after the departure of my family from the country, the permit that had been issued to me to go fishing was revoked.

In addition, I was arrested two more times.

Senator GURNEY. What for?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The first time because they thought I was involved in an escape of prisoners which had taken place in the jail of Sandino in Pinar Del Río where the prisoners from the Isle of Pines had been transferred.

And the other time was because—over a launch that made a landing in the same area, and there was an encounter with the border guards, during which some Communist guards were killed, and they supposed that I was involved in this affair.

Senator GURNEY. These were short imprisonments?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The last one, they didn't let me go until

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they caught two of the persons who had disembarked and they, during their interrogation, declared that I had nothing to do with it.

Senator GURNEY. Let's go on and describe how you escaped to this country.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The escape took place because I had planned it to take place from a beach which is very frequently visited by Fidel Castro and which is located very near the largest base of tanks in the Province of Pinar Del Río. The tank base is called Jejenes.

Senator GURNEY. Describe the escape. Where did you go? Who was with you?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. An old captain of a fishing boat who had worked with me offered to help me escape from Cuba, and, naturally, bring along his family. While I was at it, I brought out the parents of my wife who are old.

We planned for a day that had certain characteristics involving the moon because aboard the vessel there were three Communists.

From the trucks that were parked at the base, we managed to steal a military truck. On this truck there was an old comrade of his who had been incarcerated and had been First Secretary at the Embassy of Cuba in Japan, with his wife and son. And they were transported on that truck as if that truck were going toward the base.

The captain had promised me that at four in the afternoon the boat would be close to the shore with the excuse that he was going to pick up some coconuts in a coconut grove that was nearby.

An hour ahead of time I got in an old Chevrolet that I had and got to the shore and I waited hidden in the mangroves the arrival of the boat.

The truck had instructions to follow an hour afterwards. When the truck arrived I had already effected the assault on the—when the captain of the boat came ashore to go to the coconut groves, he had brought along the three Communists who were aboard, and I captured them by leveling the rifle.

We went aboard and we tied them up because the boat, on account of its size and depth could not come very close to the shore.

Senator GURNEY. Where did the boat go?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. We made a voyage of 400 miles to try to avoid the base of torpedo boats located in the Isle of Pines.

In addition, on the second day of the voyage, a merchant ship flying the Soviet flag came near but we changed our course in case it would communicate our directions. This happened around 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and then night came. We arrived at Puerto Morelos in the Yucatan Peninsula the following day at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Senator GURNEY. And then what happened? Did you go around—

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. We underwent the necessary investigation by the Mexican authorities and we were transferred to Mexico City.

Senator GURNEY. And from there?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I crossed the border and came to the United States.

Senator GURNEY. Where did you cross the border?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I crossed the border near the city named Del Rio.

Senator GURNEY. Is the Rio Grande River there? How did you get across the river? By boat or raft?



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Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No, no, I did it clandestinely because the river is very low at this time and we crossed over by wading.

Senator GURNEY. Waded across. And then from Del Rio, where did you go?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. San Antonio, Tex.

Senator GURNEY. Did you finally make your way here from there?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes. I called by telephone and they sent me the tickets and I came to Miami.

Senator GURNEY. When did you arrive in Miami?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The 26th of June.

Senator GURNEY. This year?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, sir.

Senator GURNEY. And surrendered yourself at that time to the Immigration?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Immediately.

Senator GURNEY. Now let's go back to your job as director of the Cuban fishing fleet. Did you ever issue orders as head of the fishing fleet to violate the U.S. territorial waters?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Do you specifically refer to the case that took place in 1964?

Senator GURNEY. Well, tell us about that.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Well, the orders were given by me but under instructions from Fidel Castro.

Senator GURNEY. And what were these orders?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The specific orders were since this plan had been premeditated, preconceived since the year before, that part of the vessels would violate the territorial waters of the United States.

Senator GURNEY. What was the purpose of this?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The reason was to create a state of friction or tension with the United States, which is the method utilized in international politics, and in addition, to distract attention in order to allow more freedom for the movement of infiltration for the subversive movements in Latin America, which at that time had reached a peak.

Senator GURNEY. In other words, this was done to embarrass and provoke the U.S. Government, is that correct?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Naturally, because anything like that would automatically make Cuba the victim.

Senator GURNEY. Describe exactly what happened.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. In addition to this operation which took place in the Dry Tortugas, there has been another prepared for the coast along the Mississippi River.

Senator GURNEY. Let's find out about the first one first. How many boats were involved and exactly what was done?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Exactly?

Senator GURNEY. Yes.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Four vessels were sent, two of them would remain in international waters and the other two would enter the territorial waters.

Specifically, one of the boats had aboard an intelligence agent, took down its Cuban flag and penetrated deeply into the territorial waters of the United States. It was the *Cardenas XIV*.

Senator GURNEY. Did that boat interfere with U.S. fishing vessel operations?

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Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, they had an incident with the American fishing vessels.

Senator GURNEY. What happened to the Cuban boats?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. At that time we were receiving the communications by radio at the headquarters from the boats which were taking part in the action that the boats were taken toward the naval base in Key West.

Senator GURNEY. Did you have any discussions prior to this fishing boat incident with the Russians about what you were going to do?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No; after the operation.

Senator GURNEY. What did you tell them after the operation?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Afterwards when it became necessary to have an explanation to send to the—to Khrushchev, Castro sent for me and explained that he was the one who had to participate in the conversations.

He was not to participate but to—I would in person meet with the Soviet Ambassador and have to do the explaining.

Senator GURNEY. In other words, you went to the Soviet Ambassador and told him why you were creating this fishing incident?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I met with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Alekseeiev in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Senator GURNEY. What was his reaction; anything?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Following the instructions given to me by Fidel Castro, I insisted with the Soviet Ambassador that we had been apprehended while engaged in fishing operations in international waters, and this was the way the report was prepared for Moscow.

Senator GURNEY. In other words, the Russian Ambassador wasn't all that unhappy that Castro was up to this kind of business?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The Ambassador, when he left Cuba, had been attracted to the sphere of influence in Cuba, in other words, he believed everything. He believed all these incidents like the attacks on the vessels.

Senator GURNEY. When you were director of the Cuban fishing fleet, did these fishing boats ever engage in the transportation of arms or weapons from Cuba to other countries?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. All the movements, transportation of the arms and personnel from Cuba to Latin America for subversive activities. There was no other way of doing it but by means of the fishing vessels.

Senator GURNEY. This went on all the time under your supervision?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Not specifically under my supervision because many of these boats had been attached to the Intelligence Section. On many occasions when these were not available, then we had to make available boats for that purpose. There were several cases when we had the help of Soviet ships which were going in the direction where those arms and vessels were going, and many times they would carry big launches aboard with their cranes and at a pre-arranged point in the Caribbean, they would make a rendezvous with the fishing vessels.

Senator GURNEY. In other words, the arms were put on board Russian freighters in Cuba and then unloaded to Cuban fishing vessels later on, and then the Cuban fishing vessels took them on to their destination, is that it?

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Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes; because this offered more security.

Senator GURNEY. What countries and what ports did Cuban fishing vessels take arms and ammunition to in Central and South America?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. To countries, yes; but to ports, no.

They were taken to countries but not inside a harbor.

Senator GURNEY. How were the weapons landed?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. They would land the weapons at locations that were far away and often normally inaccessible, and elements of the country who were to receive them would wait for them.

We used this tactic in Venezuela and Colombia, in Guatemala, Mexico, and the infiltration movement into the United States.

Senator GURNEY. Tell us more about the so-called infiltration movement into the United States of these weapons.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. With the United States was the simplest one of all because Cuba maintains a number of vessels constantly in the Florida Straits, and any small boat that leaves the U.S. coast can rendezvous with these vessels in just a few hours.

Afterwards when England authorized the Cuban boats, after an agreement, a conversation the British Ambassador and I had, there was an authorization for the Cuban vessels, the contact of Cuban boats with boats from the United States became easier because it took place in the Bahamas.

Senator GURNEY. Any particular island?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No, nothing in particular. The contact can be made anywhere because there isn't that much surveillance.

Senator GURNEY. How was the communication between Cuba and the people in the United States in contact with and the contact that these Cuban fishing vessels made, what means of communication?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. This was done mainly through previous arrangements or radio communications.

The small boats, the Cuban small boats are called "points of observation and contact" with the excuse of tuna fishing in the Gulf Stream. They serve as a bridge for this type of operation.

Senator GURNEY. Were you ever on any vessels that transported arms from Cuba to some other country?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, sir.

Senator GURNEY. Would you describe that?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Specifically the trip that we made to Mexico.

Senator GURNEY. Go into more detail on what happened.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. This was one of the initial trips that we made with the Lambda-type boats to the Mexican coast. The day before the departure I received instructions that Major Piñeiro\* would send some things to be picked up by our consul in Merida, and that our consul would come to meet us in another boat. The night before the vessel was ready to leave the Intelligence Unit hid between the decks approximately 30 weapons of U.S. manufacture, M-1's, M-2's,

\*Major Manuel Piñeiro Losada, member of the General Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, first vice minister and technical vice minister of the ministry of interior (MININT). Chief of the general directorate of intelligence (DGI) the Cuban equivalent of the Soviet KGB. In the early 1960's he attended Columbia University in New York where he met and married Lorna Nell Burdall, a professional dancer and reported to be a member of the Communist Party, U.S.A. Piñeiro speaks English fluently and has a reputation of thinking of himself as irresistible to American women visiting Cuba. He is known to have handled personally cases of American defectors to Cuba such as Robert Williams et al.

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Thompson Submachine Guns and some other type of weapon, all of American manufacture.

Senator GURNEY. And where were these weapons landed? Where was the transfer made and how?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The landing of the weapons could not be completed because we were stopped by a unit of the Mexican Navy and we were taken to the base in the Isla Mujeres, the Mexican Naval Base there.

There they seized a number of Soviet weapons that we were carrying for the defense of the boat in case of attack, and we remained under custody for approximately 12 days.

Senator GURNEY. Were there any other cases that you were personally involved in weapons smuggling?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Personally, no more.

Senator GURNEY. You mentioned that your boats were used frequently by Cuban Intelligence for the purpose of transporting weapons. Did you work very closely with the head of the Cuban Intelligence in the arrangement of the operation?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Not too closely because their method is not that of that absolute trust but, yes, I had to give them the fishing boats so they could use them.

I gave them Lambda-type boats, Cardenas-type boats, two boats bought in Poland and other units, some of them fast, some others not so fast.

They also would use the personnel they considered as being trustworthy.

Senator GURNEY. Who is the head of the Cuban Intelligence Service?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Major Piñeiro, better known as Barbaroja or Red Beard.

Senator GURNEY. And you know him very well?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Now they have created another unit which is the Counterintelligence, whose chief is an old Communist whose name is Mendes Comines.

Senator GURNEY. Your relations with Piñeiro were such that he could call up and ask for two or three boats and you knew that they were going to be used and assigned for the purpose of transporting weapons?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Undoubtedly, because for them it was a question of tactics, to utilize a vessel, a boat that had been working in an area in normal fishing operations, and afterwards they would take it to utilize it for their own operations.

Senator GURNEY. Now let's get to the transporting of people. Were your fishing vessels used to bring people from the Latin American countries to Cuba?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, almost all of them.

Senator GURNEY. And for what purpose were these people brought to Cuba on your fishing vessels?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Principally or mainly were the men who belonged to the guerrilla movement in Latin America. It was very difficult for them to come via normal means by air or otherwise.

I remember that one of our fishing boats brought to Havana Turcios Lima when the Guatemalan guerrilla movement was at its

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peak, and subsequently a delegation to the Tricontinental Conference was brought to Cuba on a fishing boat.

Senator GURNEY. What countries were involved besides those you mentioned, Guatemala and Venezuela?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Colombia, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Mexico in a very high degree, and the United States.

Senator GURNEY. Could you give us some idea of how many people were brought into Cuba for these training purposes during the time you were head of the fishing fleet?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. It is impossible because there were so many.

Senator GURNEY. Was the number in the thousands?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. If we have to take into account 4 or 5 years, I would say thousands.

Senator GURNEY. And your services were also used to carry these same people from Cuba back to their countries after they had finished their training, is that correct?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Many times they utilized other ways because it wasn't convenient to return by the same way they had come. Especially when they were high placed leaders of the guerrilla movement.

Senator GURNEY. But some were transported in this fashion?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes.

Senator GURNEY. I suppose some went out by air.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. They would return by plane to Colombia or Mexico.

Senator GURNEY. Do you recall an incident in 1964 where you were ordered to send one of your vessels to meet a small boat off Key West for the purpose of picking up two U.S. citizens?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes. This happened before the incident, the Key West incident.

Senator GURNEY. Who were these two people?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I don't know who they were but I know that I was given orders to obtain four boats near the Key West area, near the coast of Key West. There were four Cardenas boats.

Senator GURNEY. Do you know why these men were to be picked up?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Undoubtedly because they were connected with intelligence operations because they were taken to Pifreiro.

Senator GURNEY. Did he meet the boat or one of his people meet the boat, do you know?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The boat went directly to Havana. They had left from Varadero and Cardenas. When they arrived they were received by the section that was responsible for bringing them into Cuba.

Senator GURNEY. And it is your testimony that the number of boats involved off Key West and the arrangements were so elaborate that these were pretty important people, is that what I gather?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Undoubtedly, yes.

Senator GURNEY. How many boats are there in the Cuban fishing fleet?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The fleet in general already has more than 800 boats. Taking into account that there is a number of these boats

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that have been transferred to a permanent base in the Canary Islands and another one that is operating across the coast of French Guiana.

Senator GURNEY. How many of these boats were made available to the Intelligence Service at any one time?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I personally delivered approximately 20 that never returned to our fleet—

Senator GURNEY. How many?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Twenty. Others I would loan to them and they would return them in a month, 2 months or 3 months.

Senator GURNEY. And then on other occasions your own boats, while they were under your control and fishing, were also used in these intelligence operations, is that correct?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, sir.

Mr. SOURWINE. May I inquire?

Senator GURNEY. Go ahead.

Mr. SOURWINE. Is it your testimony that Cuba sent arms into the United States?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I don't believe that the sending of arms to the United States is necessary but, yes, there has been training given.

Mr. SOURWINE. I thought I heard you say that arms had been sent to the United States. That is the first testimony of that nature we have had so far as I know.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. There is a possibility that the persons who received training may have brought back some, but because these weapons could be obtained over here easily, there was no reason to send weapons into the United States.

Mr. SOURWINE. Many thousands of weapons have been sent from the United States into Cuba. You know this, don't you?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes.

Mr. SOURWINE. It doesn't make sense that there would be a smuggling operation set up to smuggle arms back into the United States, does it?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. In their majority these arms must have been used for operations in Latin America with the exception of the Belgian weapons that were sent to Venezuela.

Mr. SOURWINE. When you gave yourself up to the Immigration Service in Miami, did you make a statement?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Only about my occupation and entering illegally.

Mr. SOURWINE. Is that a copy of the statement that you gave [indicating]?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. This is it, yes. It is signed.

Mr. SOURWINE. This is your signature [indicating]?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes.

Mr. SOURWINE. May this go in the record?

Senator GURNEY. Yes, it will be received as exhibit 1.

(The exhibit referred to is retained in the files of the subcommittee.)

Mr. SOURWINE. Are you aware that in this statement you said you crossed the Rio Grande River in Del Rio, Tex., on a raft?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Exactly.

Mr. SOURWINE. Did you cross the river on a raft or did you wade across?

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Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Afterwards I explained to the person who questioned me the manner that I used to cross the river.

Mr. SOURWINE. Well, how did you cross the river?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Utilizing false papers that were made available to me by Mexicans.

Senator GURNEY. I think what Mr. Sourwine is asking is: by raft or by foot?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I crossed in a car on the International Bridge.

Mr. SOURWINE. You have now told the Immigration Service, and you swore to it, that you crossed on a raft. Earlier today you testified that you waded across.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. We had obtained the border crossing cards, the Mexican border crossing cards, because there were other people, and I thought that would be better to give the information directly to the authorities.

I was—I had the experience of Mexico of a number of officials who were openly sympathizing with the Castro regime, and this was one of the reasons for me to cross into the United States as rapidly as possible, and in addition the place where they had given us the majority of those refugees were Communists.

Mr. SOURWINE. What does this have to do with, how did you cross the river?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. This is the first time that I came to the United States. I arrived at 11 o'clock in the morning. I went to the offices of the Cuban Refugee Center.

Mr. SOURWINE. In Del Rio?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No; here in Miami.

Mr. SOURWINE. Whoa. What he is saying now is not of interest at this point.

I want to go back to Del Rio, Tex. How did he get across the Rio Grande?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. We crossed the river after having paid the bribery with Mexican boarding passes.

Mr. SOURWINE. In an automobile?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. In an automobile.

Senator GURNEY. Where does the wading come into this?

Mr. TARABOCHIA. He says at the moment that he gave his statement to the immigration authorities in the United States, he didn't have the confidence, he was not willing to trust them and tell them the truth, but afterwards he told them exactly what happened.

Mr. SOURWINE. Were you willing to tell us the truth this afternoon?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. And not only that, but I have explained this as it happened to the investigators who talked to me afterwards.

Mr. SOURWINE. Now explain to us why you told us this afternoon that you waded across the river.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Because I—this question, I didn't know that you had an interest to know for an explanation of how it happened.

Mr. SOURWINE. I am going to make a guess and ask you if it isn't true. My guess is that you had somebody in the United States who helped you make the crossing and helped you get from Texas

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to Miami and you are trying to protect that person or those persons; am I right?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The only help that I received was monetary help, and I received it from my sister.

The crossing of the river in Mexico is offered in the same offices of the Ministry of Interior of Mexico.

Senator GURNEY. What is that? I lost that.

Mr. TARACCHIA. What he said is that in the offices of the Mexican Ministry of Interior, a person can obtain means to cross the river illegally.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. While I was in the Mexican Immigration Office, a man—I saw a man who was standing over there observing me.

When I left and went outside, this gentleman told me that for \$200 he would help me to cross the border.

Mr. SOURWINE. Did he?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, we did it but not with him in particular.

Senator GURNEY. How did you do it? Explain it.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Another individual to whom we paid money.

Mr. SOURWINE. Who was that?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. To whom we paid \$250.

Mr. SOURWINE. Is this somebody in Mexico or somebody in the United States?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. In Mexico.

Mr. SOURWINE. Was it \$250 Mexican—not dollars? How many pesos did you pay or was it actually paid in dollars?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. In American money.

Mr. SOURWINE. Where did you get the American money?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The American money was sent from here and it was paid there.

Mr. SOURWINE. Sent to Mexico City?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Sent to Mexico City.

Mr. SOURWINE. Who sent the money?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. My sister.

Mr. SOURWINE. Where does she live?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Here.

Mr. SOURWINE. She was living here at that time?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. She has been living here for 18 years.

Mr. SOURWINE. And what is her name?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Clara López.

Mr. SOURWINE. And her address?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The same one as mine.

Mr. SOURWINE. And how did you get in touch with her?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. When I arrived in Mexico.

Mr. SOURWINE. Writing, telephone?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. By telephone, and my brother-in-law came to see us down in Mexico with the money—no, the money was sent afterward because at the time we didn't know—this was done because we believed that the requirements for coming into the United States would take place within a reasonable time, but the Mexico authorities let us know that we could stay there only a limited period.



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Mr. SOURWINE. Now we are up to Del Rio. I understand the testimony is you crossed the bridge in an automobile; is that correct?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. In an automobile.

Mr. SOURWINE. What papers did you have that you showed to the American immigration authorities on the other side?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. A small card that the Mexicans gave us and when you cross the border, you show it to the immigration authorities.

Mr. SOURWINE. This was furnished by the person who got the \$250?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The same person only that he waits the opportune moment when a person on the other side is not too—is not paying too much attention.

Mr. SOURWINE. What license on the automobile; Mexican or——

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Mexican.

Mr. SOURWINE. Mexican automobile? How many people entered?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Four.

Mr. SOURWINE. Did the driver take the car back to Mexico?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. He left us at the hotel in Del Rio.

Mr. SOURWINE. How did you get from Del Rio to San Antonio?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. We stayed at the hotel, we had dinner around 7 o'clock, and then from the hotel we called a taxi and we asked him to take us to San Antonio.

Mr. SOURWINE. How far is it?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. It came to approximately \$100. It was about 40 cents per mile because there were four people aboard.

Mr. SOURWINE. It is about 100 miles?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I believe it is about 150 miles.

Mr. SOURWINE. Do you remember telling us earlier today that the river was very shallow?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I reserve to—I made the statement with reservations because at the time that I made the statement the people, there were a number of people around and I was—I didn't have the—I wasn't—I won't trust them.

Senator GURNEY. You are talking about that statement?

Mr. SOURWINE. I am talking about the statement that you made here this afternoon.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I thought that this was information of a confidential nature because of the——

Mr. SOURWINE. I am just talking about the river being shallow. What is confidential about that?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I thought that the use of my statement at the cross of the bridge the way I did might be used for other purposes such as crossing the border with narcotics.

Mr. SOURWINE. Was the river shallow when you crossed it?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No, I don't know.

Mr. SOURWINE. You don't really know, do you?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Because I crossed it on a bridge in an automobile.

Mr. SOURWINE. I know. You don't really know whether it was shallow, isn't that true? After you made the statement that you came across on a raft, you learned that the river was so shallow that that couldn't be true.

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Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The problem of crossing the border illegally in Mexico is something that is talked about daily and constantly, and every day there are a number of people who go over there and over the crossing of the border, and they offer and help cross the border.

Mr. SOURWINE. I have no desire to belabor the point, Mr. Chairman.

My understanding of this discrepancy in testimony is that you didn't want to tell the truth in this statement because you didn't want it known that you had crossed the border illegally, is that correct?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. There are a number of specific things about this matter that if I had tried to talk about them in Mexico, I would have never arrived here.

Mr. SOURWINE. Well, I am talking about the statement that was made in the Immigration Department. Why didn't you tell them you crossed the border illegally?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Because I left part of my family in Mexico.

Mr. SOURWINE. And just why didn't you tell the truth at that time? I don't understand that.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I didn't tell the truth at that moment, but then afterwards when I was questioned again, I told them exactly what happened.

I explained everything afterwards. I explained it to the person who questioned me alone.

Mr. SOURWINE. Who was that?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. When his—there was a week of investigation.

Senator GURNEY. Do you know the person?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. A person by the name of Oscar of the Freedom House.

Mr. SOURWINE. And that is here in Miami. Just one little more question about that, which I don't understand.

Why the raft story in the statement and the on foot story here this morning? I don't quite understand that.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Because of the simple fact that the Mexicans who engage in this type of operation place great emphasis on the fact that the American authorities do not know the manner in which they help them cross the border because that would ruin the business if they found out the way that this is done.

Mr. SOURWINE. Do you mean that you lied to the immigration authorities and you lied to us again here in order to protect somebody in Mexico who is helping illegal border-crossers?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I didn't lie because I later explained the manner in which this works.

Mr. SOURWINE. You mean you didn't lie to us either because you later told us the truth?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I didn't deem the place and number of people present trustworthy enough to make the statement when I made it.

Senator GURNEY. Well, we will drop that and go on to other things.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. This type of questioning takes place in places where there are other people dealing with other business and it wasn't prudent to reveal.

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Senator GURNEY. We understand, but what we don't understand is the difference between the raft and the feet. But, never mind, we will go on to other things.

These fishing boats that carried arms and agents to Latin America, what did they transport back from Latin America to Cuba—anything? That is, they went to Latin America full of men and arms. What did they come back with—anything?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. On many occasions they came back with guerrillas who had been wounded or they were sick for the purpose of receiving treatment in Havana—in Cuba.

Senator GURNEY. Did they ever bring back any other kind of equipment to Cuba that was vitally needed for anything?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. What type of equipment?

Senator GURNEY. Well, machinery.

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The only type of equipment that was transported was radio equipment and broadcasting equipment.

Senator GURNEY. Where would this come from—the country back to Cuba?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. From the United States.

Senator GURNEY. Did you ever transport machinery to Cuba?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. All machinery was transported through the Cuban Commercial Office in Canada.

Senator GURNEY. This smuggling of arms and men, are there any other important transfer points besides Yucatan which has been mentioned here?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Mainly it is Progreso in Mexico.

Senator GURNEY. Any other islands in the Caribbean?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Curaçao.

Senator GURNEY. How extensively is Curaçao used?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. There were permanent agents stationed in Curaçao.

Senator GURNEY. Of the Castro government?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Of the Castro government and the Intelligence Service.

Senator GURNEY. And what was their mission?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. To act as liaison because in the operation of infiltrating subversives in Venezuela, the simplest way was Curaçao.

Senator GURNEY. What kind of operations did your boats carry out in the Mona Passage?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. There were some tuna fishing boats. Their function was to explore the possibility of tuna fishing.

Senator GURNEY. Is there any tuna fishing down there to speak of?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, there is tuna but their function is not fish tuna.

Senator GURNEY. What was their function?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Pick up people from Puerto Rico and take them to Cuba.

Senator GURNEY. How much of that was done? How many people were transferred?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I don't know the exact number but the number of Puerto Ricans in Havana is pretty high.

Senator GURNEY. What about the transfer of people by those same boats to and from Hispaniola?

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Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. They have created a new fleet which will specifically fish at the end of the Bahamas Bank which is located in that area.

Senator GURNEY. How extensive is this fleet? How many boats?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Approximately 60 boats.

Senator GURNEY. This is primarily for the subversion of Santo Domingo and Haiti?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The chief of that particular fleet is the chief legal officer of the Department of State Security.

Senator GURNEY. Do you know a man by the name of Hector Hernandez?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes.

Senator GURNEY. And who is he?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. He is a newspaperman, a reporter for Granma who reported events of the Venceremos Brigade.

Senator GURNEY. What did he have to say to you about the Venceremos Brigade?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The Cubans were very much dissatisfied because of the physical appearance of the members of the Brigade, the presence of homosexuals in the Brigade and many drug addicts in the group.

Senator GURNEY. These were all Americans, were they?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I did not talk to them directly but there were some that looked like Mexicans.

Senator GURNEY. At any rate, they didn't think much of the quality?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. They were taken directly to the Isle of Pines without bringing them in contact with the population.

Senator GURNEY. Let's take a little recess here.

(A short recess was taken.)

Senator GURNEY. What can you tell us about the violations of the embargo which the United States has imposed on manufactured goods to Cuba? Have there been violations of that?

Have the goods that are on the embargo gotten into Cuba, and if so, how?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, they have taken American machinery to Cuba.

Senator GURNEY. How has this been done?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. They are sent to Canada, they then change the description and then they are sent to Cuba.

Senator GURNEY. Is there a good volume of that that goes on?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. There is a gigantic volume.

Senator GURNEY. Do you know anything about the activities of the Black Panther leaders who went to Cuba from the United States?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. There was a time when they were welcomed in their visits to Cuba, but afterwards they had problems.

Senator GURNEY. What were these problems?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. A group of the Negro race formed a Black Power organization in the university with staff and everything.

Afterwards they were apprehended by the Department of Security of State and the authorities, the Cuban authorities seized the tapes, films, and propaganda that had been sent from the United States.

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Senator GURNEY. Were these attempts to subvert the Cuban Government? What were they?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. No; they were trying to exhort the Negroes of Cuba to take over the government because they were telling them that Fidel Castro had not given them the participation in policy-making that was due to them.

Senator GURNEY. This is why the arrests were made; is that right?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Once a staff was put together, this is considered a counterrevolutionary act.

Senator GURNEY. And some were arrested, is that right?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Many.

Senator GURNEY. What do you know about the attempts by Cuba to foment revolution in Puerto Rico?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. The place where the Puerto Ricans received their training was very special because the instructors were either outright Russians or they were Spaniards who had spent a long time in the Soviet Union, who were veterans of the Civil War in Spain.

In charge of them is an individual who is known by the name of Anacleto who was the lieutenant of General Lister of the International Brigade.

Senator GURNEY. Are you testifying that the Castro regime is laying great and special emphasis on the subversive work done against Puerto Rico?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Exactly. What I saw, what I personally saw is what has become now just a marginal operation. It has been put aside.

Laura Meneses, who asked for a permit to go to Canada, she said that it had been denied, she and another individual by the name of Juarbe.

Senator GURNEY. Did you ever discuss the Puerto Rican operation with her?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. Yes, I did.

Senator GURNEY. And what did she tell you about it?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. She was very resentful because the help of Fidel Castro was centered toward Juan Mari Bras, who is the leader of the Movement for Independence.

Her activity is reduced to a book that is being prepared on Puerto Rico.

Senator GURNEY. Are you saying that the Cubans don't trust her any more, is that it?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. It appears that they don't have any confidence in her, they don't trust her.

There is an instance that one of the sons of Laura Meneses tried to greet Fidel Castro during a meeting. Fidel asked him why he was staying in Cuba, why he didn't go to Puerto Rico.

Senator GURNEY. How large is this training operation in Cuba of the Puerto Ricans?

Mr. GONZALEZ-PARDO. I believe that in the near future the subversive activities in Puerto Rico are going to increase.

Senator GURNEY. I think that's all we will have time for now. Thank you very much.

The committee stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.  
(Whereupon, at 4:40 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.)

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CONFIDENTIAL

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Monday - 6 December 1971

1. (Confidential - GLC) Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, advised that the Senate had amended the supplemental appropriations bill (H. R. 11955) to include an appropriation  for Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe contingent upon the enactment of S. 18 or other authorizing legislation. If this amendment is accepted by the House, as expected, and enacted, there remains only agreement by the House and Senate conferees on S. 18 to complete legislative action to provide for continuation of the Radios.

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Woodruff said he expects the conferees to meet on the Defense appropriations bill on Thursday, with passage of this measure on Friday and congressional recess by the weekend.

2. (Confidential - GLC) Mr. C.B. Morrison, on the staff of Senator Allen J. Ellender (D., La.), said the Senator called him today to say that when Mr. Helms visited him last he offered to "winterize" the Senator's camera for his trip to Antarctica. The Senator would like this done in time for his departure a week from today. I told Mr. Morrison I would check on this and be back in touch with him. The Senator also asked if Kodachrome II, which is the film he normally uses, is suitable for this trip.

I contacted Mr. Art Lundahl, NPIC, immediately. He said it was he who had suggested to the Senator that he have his camera winterized for this trip, but he did not offer to do it. Mr. Lundahl is contacting the Navy, however, to see if arrangements can be made to have the necessary work done.

3. (Confidential - GLC) Mr. David Martin, on the staff of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, provided me with a copy of the published document "The Assault on Freedom" (A Compendium of Theoretical and Policy Statements by the Communist Movement, Domestic and International, and by other Organizations Committed to the Violent Overthrow of Free Institutions), which has been passed on to CI Staff,

Mr. Martin also said the Subcommittee is considering hearings on the Communist propaganda apparatus, both overt and "cryptic." He said they are hoping to have Frank Shakespeare, USIA, testify on the open propaganda and they are considering Bert Wolf and Arthur Koestler, but he would like any suggestions we might have as to recent defectors, escapees, or others whom we might suggest as good witnesses on the Communist clandestine propaganda apparatus. I told him I would check and be back in touch with him.

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